

FISCAL NOTE

SB 427 - HB 1264

March 3, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL: Specifies that the salary of a general sessions court judge shall be determined by the higher classification for the remainder of the judge's term and subsequent terms of office if a county is in one class when the judge is elected and moves into a higher class on the basis of a subsequent census. Provides that, in no instance, shall a judge's salary be less than the salary paid prior to re-classification for a county moving into a higher classification.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Local Govt. Expenditures - Forgo Decrease - Less than \$100,000

Estimate assumes in the absence of the bill in counties whose classification has changed from Class 3 to Class 1 or 2, the salaries of judges who were receiving the maximum salary and supplements under the previous classification would have decreased upon re-election to subsequent terms after the re-classification. This decrease would have been attributable to the decrease in the amount of the supplements such judges receive for additional duties. Such foregone decreases would not be realized until the judge begins serving a new term as the Constitution (Article VI, Section 7) already prohibits the diminishing of a judge's compensation during the time for which they are elected. The foregone decrease in county expenditures is estimated to be less than \$100,000 statewide over time (when an affected judge begins a new term). Salaries of General Sessions Court Judges are the responsibility of local governments.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director